

REMARKS

In the aforementioned claim amendments, claims 1-3 are amended. Now pending in the application are claims 1-5, of which claims 1, 3 and 4 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

Patentable Subject Matter

Claim 4 and 5 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of the claims. Claim 3 is indicated to recite a patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants submit that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Claim Amendments

Applicants amend claims 1-2 to clarify the scope of the claimed invention. In particular, claim 1 is amended to recite that each of the nodes has *therewithin* a low pass filter connected to the transmission lines, and two terminating resistors respectively *connected to* the transmission lines via the low pass filter. Support for the claim amendments could be found in Fig. 7 and corresponding description at pages 8-10. No new matter is added.

Claim Objection

Claim 1 is objected to because the phrase "two-wire type" renders the claim indefinite. In response to the objection, Applicants amend claim 1 to change "two-wire type" to "two-wire," as suggested by the Examiner. In light of the claim amendments, Applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance and request the Examiner withdraw the objection to claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,323,072 of Fisch et al. ("Fisch"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites a communication system utilizing two-wire transmission lines for transmitting a transmission signal represented by two AC components being opposite in phase and appearance. The communication system comprises a plurality of nodes, each of the nodes having *therewithin* a low pass filter connected to the transmission lines and two terminating resistors respectively *connected to* the transmission lines *via the low pass filter*. Claim 2 depends on claim 1.

Fisch discloses an interface circuit in Fig. 1. Fisch also discloses that the interface circuit connects a control component (2) to a data transmission bus (3).

Applicants respectfully submit that Fisch fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Applicants submit that Fisch fails to disclose that each of the nodes has *therewithin* a low pass filter connected to the transmission lines and two terminating resistors respectively *connected to* the transmission lines *via the low pass filter*, as recited in claim 1. Fisch discloses that the bus (3) is directly coupled to resistors R14 and R15. In comparison, claim 1 recites that each node has *therewithin* a low pass filter and two terminating resistors. Fisch does not disclose that the resistors R14 and 15 are positioned within each of the nodes, or that an intermediate element, such as a low pass filter, is positioned between the bus and the resistors R14 and R15. That is, Fisch does not disclose that the bus (3) is connected to the resistors R14 and R15 *via the low pass filter*.

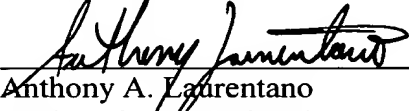
With the arrangement of the claimed invention, a reference voltage and/or a drive voltage Vcc in each node is not adversely affected since disturbances or external noises absorbed by the transmission lines are eliminated by the low pass filter. As such, the bias voltage and transmission voltage of the node are stable notwithstanding the external noises. Fish does not disclose this advantage of the claimed invention.

In light of the claim amendments and aforementioned arguments, Applicants submit that Fisch fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Applicants therefore submit that claims 1 and 2 are in condition for allowance and request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants contend that claims 1-5 define over the cited art. If there are any remaining issues, an opportunity for an interview is requested prior to the issuance of another Office Action. If the above amendments are not deemed to place this case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP



Anthony A. Laurentano
Registration No. 38,220
Attorney for Applicants

28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 227-7400
(617) 742-4214
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